# Sri Marikamba temple, Sagara, Karnataka

**Info is given under following headings**:

Location, address, phone, how to get there. Greatness of this temple. Legends and history. Architecture of temple  deities. Sub-deities  daily rituals and poojas and their charges ..special poojas and rituals and their charges..  festivals, facilities for devotees...like accommodation etc. Donation info and bank acct number etc. Nearby temples. Other tourist attractions. Nearby budget hotels. Any other info...etc

****

**AI Overview**

The Sri Marikamba Temple in Sagara, Shimoga district, Karnataka, is a historic 16th-century shrine dedicated to Goddess Marikamba, built during the reign of Venkatappa Nayaka of the Keladi dynasty. Located on J.C. Road, it is a prominent pilgrimage site in the region, known for the grand bi-annual Marikamba Jathre (car festival).

**Key Highlights:**

- **Significance:** The temple is dedicated to a form of Durga/Mariamman and is considered a "village goddess" (Gramadevata) of the region.
- **Location:** The temple is located on J.C. Road in the heart of Sagara town, Shimoga district, Karnataka.
- **History:** It was established during the 16th century by Venkatappa Nayaka, who ruled the Keladi and Ikkeri kingdom.
- **Festival:** The Marikamba Jathre, a massive car festival, takes place every two years.
- **Visiting Info:** The temple generally opens daily from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM, based on available records. Visitors are advised to dress modestly and respectfully.
- **Nearby Attractions:** Sagara is a base for visiting Jog Falls, Sharavathi backwaters, and the Keladi-Ikkeri temple circuit.

***

**Location, Address, Phone, How to Get There**

The Sri Marikamba Temple is situated in the heart of Sagara (also spelled Sagar), in the Shivamogga (Shimoga) district of Karnataka, India. It is a prominent landmark in the city center.

**Address**: JC Road, Sagara, Karnataka 577401.

**Phone**: +91-6363335875.

**How to Get There**:

Sagara is well-connected by road, with frequent KSRTC and private buses from major cities like Bengaluru (approximately 350 km, 7-8 hours), Shivamogga (60 km, 1-2 hours), Udupi, Honnavar, and nearby towns.

The nearest railway stations are Sagar Jambagaru (SRF) and Talaguppa (TLGP), from where autos or taxis can take you to the temple (a short 5-10 km ride).

The closest airport is Mangaluru International Airport (about 200 km) or Hubballi Airport (around 150 km from your location in Hubballi). Local autos and taxis are readily available in Sagara for temple visits.

**Greatness of This Temple**

The temple is highly revered as it houses Goddess Marikamba, a fierce form of Goddess Parvati (also associated with Durga), who is considered a powerful protector against epidemics and misfortunes.

She was the family deity (kuladevi) of the Keladi Nayakas, a ruling dynasty in the region, and is believed to bring victory and blessings to devotees.

The temple's significance is amplified by its historical role in local folklore, where attempts to relocate it in the 1950s were linked to a plague epidemic, underscoring the goddess's vigilant presence.

It attracts thousands during festivals and is one of Karnataka's key Shakti worship sites.

**Legends and History**

According to legends, Adi Shankaracharya visited Sagara during his tours in South India.

The goddess appeared in his dream, instructing him to establish a temple for her.

He consecrated her divine footprints at the city's outer limits.

In 1596, amid wars between the Kadamba, Chalukya, and Hoysala dynasties, King Venkatappa Nayaka of the Keladi and Ikkeri kingdom adopted Marikamba as his family goddess to seek victory in battle.

After winning, he shifted the footprints to the city center and built the temple around them.

The temple was constructed in the 16th century during Venkatappa Nayaka's reign and is also known as Doddamma Temple (meaning "elder sister" among Mariamman deities). In

the early 1950s, a proposal to move the temple outside the city was abandoned after it allegedly caused a plague, reinforcing the goddess's protective aura.

**Architecture of Temple Deities**

The temple exhibits traditional South Indian (Dravidian) architecture with intricate carvings and a central sanctum.

The primary deity is Goddess Marikamba Devi, depicted as an eight-armed fierce form of Parvati/Durga, often adorned with garlands, fruits, and flowers.

Legends mention her representation through consecrated footprints, but the sanctum features a prominent idol image symbolizing her power.

The structure includes a gopuram (tower) and decorative elements typical of 16th-century Nayaka-era temples. Here's a visual of the beautifully adorned deity:

**Sub-Deities**

Specific sub-deities are not prominently documented in available sources.

The focus remains on the **main goddess, Marikamba Devi**, though minor shrines for associated Hindu deities may exist within the temple premises as per standard Shakti temple layouts.

**Daily Rituals and Poojas and Their Charges**

The temple is open daily from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Standard daily rituals include morning and evening aartis, abhishekam (ritual bathing of the deity), and archana (offering prayers).

These follow traditional Hindu practices with chants, lamps, and offerings.

Specific charges for daily poojas are not widely published and may vary; basic archana or entry is typically free or nominal (around ₹10-50 for special offerings like flowers or coconuts).

Devotees are advised to inquire at the temple counter for current rates.

**Special Poojas and Rituals and Their Charges**

Special poojas, such as those during auspicious days or personal vows (like mangalya puja for marital bliss), are conducted upon request.

Details on unique rituals are limited, but they may include homas (fire rituals) or vratas dedicated to the goddess.

Charges are not explicitly listed in sources; they could range from ₹100-500 for basic specials to higher for elaborate ones. Contact the temple for personalized arrangements.

**Festivals**

**Navaratri:** Celebrated with special decorations, prayers, and cultural programs honoring the goddess over nine days.

**Marikamba Jathra (Fair):** The highlight is this grand fair held every three years in February or March, lasting 9-10 days.

It features a massive procession with a 16-foot-high colorful chariot carrying the deity's idol, cultural events, stalls, and socio-religious activities.

The next one is scheduled from February 3 to February 11, 2026, attracting devotees from across Karnataka.

It begins with mangalya puja and includes folk performances and community feasts.

**Facilities for Devotees (Like Accommodation, Etc.)**

Facilities are basic, as it's a city-center temple.
There's no on-site accommodation, but nearby options include rest houses or dharamshalas for pilgrims (inquire locally).

A supermarket is available nearby for essentials.

During festivals, temporary stalls provide food and water. Devotees should note clean, conservative dress is preferred (no shorts or revealing clothes).

**Donation Info and Bank Account Number, Etc.**

Donation details, including bank account numbers, are not publicly detailed in reliable sources.

Devotees can contribute via cash at the temple hundi (offering box) or contact the temple administration directly for online/UPI options or receipts for tax benefits under Section 80G.

The temple is managed by local trusts; reach out via phone for specific guidance.

**Nearby Temples**

**Ikkeri Aghoreshwara Temple**: About 15 km away, a 16th-century Shiva temple with stunning Nayaka architecture.

**Keladi Rameshwara Temple**: Around 6 km, dedicated to Rama and Shiva, known for its historical inscriptions and carvings.

**Sigandur Chowdeshwari Temple:** Approximately 40 km, a popular Shakti peetha on the Sharavathi River backwaters, accessible by boat.

**Other Tourist Attractions**

Sagara is surrounded by natural and historical sites:

- **Jog Falls**: India's second-highest waterfall (30 km), ideal for trekking and views.
- **Honnemaradu**: An island in the Linganamakki Reservoir (25 km), great for boating, camping, and birdwatching.
- **Linganamakki Dam**: Scenic reservoir area for picnics.
- *Other spots* include Varadapura Hill for panoramic views and adventure activities like kayaking.

**Nearby Budget Hotels**

Budget-friendly options in Sagara include:

- **Tip Top Residency:** Clean rooms with basic amenities, near the bus stand; rates start around ₹800-1500/night.
- **Green Embassy**: Small hotel with good reviews for comfort and proximity to attractions like **Jog Falls;** ₹1000-2000/night.
- **Yatri Nivas Sagara**: Affordable government-run lodge with cozy stays; ₹500-1000/night.

- **Hotel Samrat Veg & Non-Veg:** Basic lodging with attached restaurant; ₹700-1200/night.

Book via apps like MakeMyTrip for deals, and check for AC/non-AC options.

**Any Other Info**

The temple has no official website confirmed (some listings point to unrelated sites like Sirsi's temple).

For updates, check the Sagara Municipal Council site or social media like the temple's Facebook/Instagram pages.

During the Jathra, expect crowds and plan travel in advance. The area is known for its Malnad cuisine—try local dishes like akki roti or bamboo shoot curries nearby.

Photography inside the sanctum may be restricted

**More info:**

The Sri Marikamba Temple in Sagara does not have a widely published official detailed list of daily poojas, special sevas, or exact charges on public websites (unlike the more documented Sirsi Marikamba Temple).

The temple is managed by a local committee (Sri Marikamba Vyavasthapaka Samithi), and specific seva details are typically available only at the temple counter or through direct inquiry, as they can vary based on the day, priest availability, and festival periods.

**Daily Poojas and Rituals**

From available visitor accounts and general updates for the temple (especially around the ongoing 2026 Jathra period, which started February 3 and runs until February 11, 2026):

**Temple Timings (regular/non-festival days):** Generally open from around 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM (or 1:00 PM) in the morning and 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM (or 8:30 PM) in the evening.

Some sources mention slight variations like 7:30 AM–1:00 PM and 4:30 PM–8:30 PM, with extended hours (e.g., until 9:00 PM on Tuesdays/Fridays) during auspicious days.

**Daily Rituals** include standard Shakti temple practices:

**Morning Abhishekam** (ritual bathing of the deity) and archana (offering prayers with flowers, fruits, etc.).
**Aarti** (lamp waving) in the morning and evening.
**Mangalarati or Deepa Aarti** in the evenings.
These are performed daily by the temple priests following traditional protocols.

Basic darshan and participation in general aartis are usually free or involve nominal offerings (e.g., coconuts, flowers, or small cash in the hundi).

**Charges for basic daily offerings (**like archana with specific items) are typically low and handled on-site—often ₹10–₹100 depending on the item (e.g., kumkum archana, flower offerings).

Exact current rates aren't listed online, so it's best to check at the temple's seva counter upon arrival.

**Special Poojas and Rituals**

Special or sponsored poojas (sevas) are available for devotees seeking blessings for health, family welfare, protection from ailments (as the goddess is revered for warding off epidemics), or personal vows.

These may include:

- Abhishekam (with milk, honey, etc.).
- Homa or fire rituals (if requested).
- Mangalya Puja or similar vow-based ceremonies.
- During festivals like Navaratri or the Marikamba Jathra, elaborate special alankara (decorations), processions, and group poojas occur.

Specific charges aren't publicly detailed for Sagara's temple (searches mostly return info for the Sirsi counterpart, where sevas range from ₹50 for basic archana to ₹300–₹500+ for abhishekam or special poojas).
In Sagara, expect similar reasonable rates—likely ₹100–₹1000+ for special sevas, with higher amounts during Jathra for exclusive rituals.

Many devotees perform simple offerings or sponsor items for the deity's decoration.

**Recommendations**

Best Way to Get Accurate Info: Visit the temple directly (especially now during the 2026 Jathra, when activity is high) or call the temple at +91-6363335875 (previously noted contact).
You can ask about available sevas, book if needed, and get the latest charges/receipts.

**The Facebook page** Shri Marikamba temple Sagara (official/community page) sometimes shares updates on events and rituals—check there for recent posts.

**Note**: During the current Jathra (ongoing as of February 20, 2026), expect crowds, special daily processions, and enhanced poojas—plan your visit accordingly for a fulfilling experience.

****

**Ref: Google Gemini**

**Sri Marikamba Temple in Sagara** is one of the most significant and culturally vibrant Shakti Peethas in the Malnad region of Karnataka.

Often referred to as the "elder sister" of the Marikamba deities in the state, this temple is the spiritual heartbeat of Sagara town.

1. **Location & Getting There**

* **Address**: J.C. Road, Sagara, Shivamogga District, Karnataka – 577401.

* **Phone**: +91-63633 35875 (Samithi Office).

* **How to Get There:**

* **By Train**: The nearest major station is Sagara Jambagaru (approx. 2 km).

* **By Road**: Sagara is well-connected by KSRTC and private buses from Bengaluru (approx. 350 km), Shivamogga (72 km), and Hubli (160 km).

* **By Air**: The nearest airport is Shivamogga Airport (Sogane), about 85 km away.

2. **History & Legends**

The temple dates back to the 16th century, established during the reign of Venkatappa Nayaka of the Keladi-Ikkeri kingdom.

* **The Dream**: Legend says Adi Shankaracharya consecrated the "footprints" of the Goddess at the city's outskirts.
Later, the Goddess appeared in the King's dream, leading him to discover her idol in a pond on the way to Hangal.

* **The Plague Miracle**: In the 1950s, a plan to move the temple caused a plague outbreak in the town.

After the authorities prayed and abandoned the relocation, the epidemic miraculously stopped, cementing the Goddess’s reputation as a protector from disease.

3. **Architecture & Deities**

* **Deity**: The main deity is Sri Marikamba Devi, an 8-armed form of Goddess Durga. The idol is approximately 7 feet tall, depicted in a fierce (Rudra) avatar, riding a tiger and slaying the demon Mahishasura.
* **Architecture**: The temple follows traditional Malnad-style architecture with a spacious inner courtyard.

It is famous for its Kaavi Art murals—a rare Konkan-style red-and-white wall art depicting mythological stories.

4. **Rituals, Poojas & Charges**

* **Daily Timings**: 6:30 AM – 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM.

* **Daily Rituals**: Includes Nitya Puja (8 AM/5:30 PM) and Maha Aarti (12 PM/8 PM).

* **Common Sevas**:

  * Archana: ₹50 – ₹100
  * Kumkuma Archana: ₹100
  * Panchamrutha Abhisheka: ₹300 – ₹500
  * Udi Seve: Varies (Offering saree/blouse piece)
  * Note: Prices are subject to change by the Management Committee.

5. **Festivals: The Sagara Marikamba Jatre**

The Marikamba Jatre is held once every three years and is one of Karnataka's largest fairs.

* **Next Jatre**: Scheduled for February 3–11, 2026.

* **Key Ritual**: The deity is taken in a grand 16-foot chariot (Ratha) through the streets. For 9 days, she resides in a temporary "husband's house" (Ganda-mane) before returning.

6. **Facilities & Accommodation**

* **Temple Facilities**: Basic amenities like drinking water and restrooms are available. The temple committee often organizes Annadana (free meals) during festival days.

* **Budget Hotels Nearby**: * Sarvam Residency (110m from temple)

  * Green Embassy (Near Bus Stand)
  * Anmol International (Agrahara area)
  * Sri Renuka Hotel (Walking distance)

7. **Nearby Attractions**

| Attraction | Distance from Sagara | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Jog Falls** | 30 km | India's second-highest plunge waterfall. |
| **Ikkeri (Aghoreshwara)** | 6 km | Stunning Hoysala-Dravidian stone temple. |
| **Keladi** | 8 km | Historic Rameshwara temple of the Nayaka era. |
| **Sigandur** | 45 km | Chowdeshwari Temple reached by a scenic ferry ride. |
| **Varadamoola** | 6 km | Birthplace of the Varada River. |

8. **Donations & Bank Details**

Donations can be made for Annadana (Food) or temple maintenance. While the Sagara temple trust details are usually provided at the counter, ensure you donate to the "Sri Marikamba Vyavasthapaka Samithi, Sagara" account.
> **Important**: Always verify the bank account at the official temple office counter to avoid fraudulent online links.
***
**More info on daily poojas and special poojas and their charges. Also info on nearby heritage temples :**
Building on the earlier info, here are more specific details regarding the poojas and heritage sites.
Please note that since the Marikamba Jatre (Major Fair) is happening right now (February 3–11, 2026), the temple will be exceptionally crowded and special festival schedules will apply.

1. **Pooja & Seva Details**
While the basic Archana is affordable, special sevas allow for a deeper connection with the deity.

| Seva Name | Estimated Charge | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Kumkuma Archana** | ₹100 | Offering vermilion to the Goddess; popular for women. |
| **Panchamrutha Abhisheka** | ₹300 – ₹500 | Ritual bathing of the deity with 5 sacred liquids. |
| **Udi Seve** | ₹250 – ₹500 | Offering a saree, blouse piece, and bangles to the Devi. |
| **Maha Pooja** | ₹500 – ₹1,000 | A grand elaborate pooja performed on behalf of the devotee. |
| **Chandika Homa** | ₹5,000+ | A powerful fire ritual; usually requires prior booking. |
| **Shashwatha Pooja** | ₹2,000 – ₹5,000 | A "Permanent Pooja" performed once a year on a chosen date. |

* **Annadana (Food Donation):** You can sponsor a day's meal for devotees. Costs typically range from ₹2,000 to ₹10,000 depending on the scale.

* **Special Friday Poojas**: Friday is considered the most auspicious day for the Devi. Special Alankara (decoration) is done, and the temple remains open longer.

2. **Nearby Heritage Temples**

Sagara is the gateway to the Keladi Nayaka heritage. These three temples are essential for any history or architecture lover:

A. **Aghoreshwara Temple, Ikkeri (6 km)**

* **Significance**: Former capital of the Keladi Nayakas.

* **Highlights**: A magnificent stone temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. It features a unique blend of Hoysala, Vijayanagara, and Dravidian styles.
Look for the massive stone Nandi (bull) which has a high-glass polish.
* **Entry**: Free.

B. **Rameshwara Temple, Keladi (8 km)**

* **Significance**: The original seat of the Keladi kingdom.

* **Highlights**: A temple complex with shrines for Rameshwara, Veerabhadra, and Parvati.

The wooden carvings on the ceiling and the "Ganda-Bherunda" (two-headed mythical bird) pillar are world-famous.

* **Museum**: There is a small historical museum nearby with ancient manuscripts and artifacts.

C. **Varadamoola (6 km)**

* **Significance**: The source (Moola) of the Varada River.

* **Highlights**: A peaceful spot with a pond (Kalyani) where the water originates from the feet of Goddess Varadadevi.
It houses several small shrines, including those for Lord Vishnu and Surya.

3. **Important Note for February 2026**

For visiting during the Jatre period (Feb 3–11):

* **Crowds**: Expect thousands of people. Regular seva charges might be suspended in favor of "Sarva Darshana" (general viewing).

* **Traffic**: Roads within Sagara town may be diverted for the chariot procession.

* **Budget Hotels**: Most hotels like Sarvam Residency or Hotel Varada will likely be fully booked. It is best to call ahead or stay in Shivamogga city (72 km away) and commute.

***

**Photos**

**Sagara Marikamba Temple**

**Marikamba Devi**

**Marikamba Jatre**

**Procession**

*****

**Videos**

Sagara Marikamba story - Kannada(10 min):

https://youtu.be/lGo4lNGyOqA?si=xirFrPoVroD5C_sy

Devi songs (6 min): https://youtu.be/nUaVmmBXbcU?si=KTC9hG6vLSKR5Qo2

Sagara Marikamba Darshan (6 min):https://youtu.be/_-VDBBrwS8M?si=j7FaxKLcL-tr597n

Sagara Marikamba — Parichaya (9 min):

https://youtu.be/q1ObJ9QKVf4?si=8F56StiaVOziTD2c

****

**Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar**
**February 21, 2026**
***